



# DHS Today via E-Mail

## February 18, 2004

### Youth Services Director Announces Retirement



Youth Services Division Director Doyle Herndon has announced his retirement and said he thinks a solid foundation has been made for his replacement.

Herndon, 65, plans to leave DHS in May to spend more time with family. This spring he will help the department administrators choose his replacement.

“We’d like to have a smooth transition of responsibility,” said Herndon. “We’ve done so well. We’ve got some good programs going, and I don’t want to lose that momentum.”

When Herndon became director in August 2001, the Division of Youth Services (DYS) was in a state of turmoil. During his tenure, DHS has overcome many hurdles including earning favorable marks from the U.S. Department of Justice for changes implemented at the Alexander Youth Services Center.

“Doyle took over the juvenile justice system at a very challenging time,” said Kurt Knickrehm, DHS Director. “DYS’ accomplishments under his leadership reflect his commitment to Arkansas’ youth. We will miss him very much.”

Under Herndon's direction, all six regional juvenile programs have earned accreditation by the American Correctional Association. The division directs juvenile rehabilitation and diversion programs throughout the state. The diversion programs alone serve up to 10,000 youth. Herndon said the programs are designed to give the youth options in order to avoid being placed in the division.

Under Herndon's direction, the Youth Services Division has laid out an education initiative to provide consistency for children in the future. Herndon said several new programs have been added, including the sex offenders program and specialized-treatment programs.

Herndon, a retired Army colonel and graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, said his retirement is bittersweet.

"I will miss the DYS staff," said Herndon. "This has been an exciting [opportunity] that I've had. I will always cherish the time."

The Department will put together a selection committee for a new director that will likely include child welfare advocates as well as juvenile court judges and youth services professionals.

## DHS AROUND THE STATE

### DHS ART COUNCIL HOSTS MIGHTY WORKS PROJECT



The DHS Art Council would like to invite you to see the latest art exhibit on display when visiting the Donaghey Plaza South building in Downtown Little Rock. An excerpt from Kirk Jordan's The Mighty Works Project is now on display on the building's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony. Jordan has been the staff photographer for Governor Huckabee since 2001. "Mighty Works" is a series of works inspired by Jordan's spiritual beliefs. The display will be up through March.

### ***'Good Works Foundation' Working in Pine Bluff***

The Wal-Mart Good Works Foundation in Pine Bluff, an employees' association, has donated \$1,000 to sponsor a high school student who is blind or severely visually impaired in a career development program operated by the Division of Services for the Blind.



The program, called "Jump Start," is for blind and severely visually impaired high school students across the state. Jump Start exposes the students to the world of work and assists them in transitioning from high school to employment and adulthood. Students are placed in part-time jobs in the mornings and then do activities in the afternoons to develop career awareness and self-sufficiency. Students go on field trips to businesses, and employers explain company expectations, hiring practices, and career opportunities. DSB teaches the students how to do their own shopping, cooking, laundry, etc. Certified mobility specialists will teach the students how to move about independently and confidently using a cane or other techniques. Students are also taught job search skills and computer technology. These skills will help the students work, go to college, and be more independent.

Contributions to the program assist in housing, feeding, and training the youths during the four weeks they are in the program. All meals, transportation, lodging, salaries for the student's part-time job, recreation, and training materials are included. DSB provides mobility specialists, counselors, job coaches, technology/computer instructors, a nurse, and other staff while the students are in training. DSB also hires house parents. DSB provides students with a Jump Start T-shirt and a certificate for completing the program.

Working part-time and interacting with other students who are blind or severely visually impaired increases the student's confidence, self-esteem, and work and social skills. Students are housed in Little Rock during the week, but go home on weekends. Students who complete this part of the program are found summer jobs in their communities the following year. DSB is able to include 22 students in Jump Start each year. Approximately 30 students applied last year from around the state.



**MDA**

SHAMROCKS 2004

**The Muscular Dystrophy Association works continuously at conquering neuromuscular diseases that affect more than a million Americans. The committee members of the DHS Volunteer Activities Council are participating in the 2004 Shamrock program for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. See your Volunteer Activities Council Representatives or call 682-0198 to buy a Shamrock for \$1 TODAY & receive a FREE Shamrock lapel pin to wear on St. Patrick's Day!**

# Weight Watchers at Work

A new program and a new class of Weight Watchers will begin on March 3, 2004 at 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room 5368. A representative from Weight Watchers will conduct the class. The class will last 8 weeks. If you have questions, please contact Ruby Shackleford (DYS) at 683-2674.

## Changes/Transitions

**Deborah Tenner** is the new **Assistant Director** for **Adult Services** with the **Division of Development Disabilities**. She started the position on January 12, 2004.

**James Springer** is the new **DHS Client Advocate** in the **Director's Office**. He started the position on January 20, 2004. Before accepting this position, Mr. Springer served in the capacity of Client Advocate for the Division of Children and Family Services.

**Tommy Fowler** is the new Director of the Fraud Section in the Office of Chief Counsel. He will begin his position in February.

**Bernard Pighee** is the new Administrator of Employee Relations, in the Office of Chief Counsel. Mr. Pighee began his new position on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## A Final Thought....

When times are troubled and the stress of caseloads seem unbearable, often we question our purpose in a large bureaucracy where critical mass is constant. This client letter illustrates that purpose well and brings us back to what drew us here in the first place. If you believe that your efforts as a DHS employee go unrewarded, please remember the thousands like Mr. Cameron.

*On Monday, January 10, 2004, I called Ms. Ann Zeiler with some questions about my grandmother. Ms. Zeiler is an employee of the Division of Aging and Adult Services. The reason for my writing you is to extend my thanks and gratitude to Ms. Zeiler. This is a very tender subject and a very emotional time for me and my family and Ms. Zeiler was very helpful in assisting me with me with my questions. Ms. Zeiler took the time to speak to me and inform me of the options available to us for assisting my grandmother. She made the information easy to understand and also agreed to send me some additional information. Most people believe that dealing with state employees is always a painful and horrible experience. Ms. Zeiler surely broke the mold. I work for a state agency myself and often find myself in situations to help other people and feel some satisfaction for helping them. Ms. Zeiler is the type of person that makes me proud to be a citizen of the Great State of Arkansas.*

*Jason Cameron, Arkansas State Police*



Do you have something you'd like to share in the newsletter?  
Send e-mail to [Julie.Munsell@mail.state.ar.us](mailto:Julie.Munsell@mail.state.ar.us) or  
[Ingrid.Green@mail.state.ar.us](mailto:Ingrid.Green@mail.state.ar.us). Send a fax to (501) 682-6836  
or call (501) 682-8650.